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National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Contact: Marc Tosiano, 717-787-3904
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's July 1, 2008 Crop Forecast

HARRISBURG, PA, July 11, 2008 - - Based on July 1, 2008 forecast for yield and production, the Keystone state's farmers expect to produce more oats, barley, winter wheat, potatoes, and peaches this year, according to the Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Oat acreage for grain, at 80,000, is unchanged from last year's harvested acres. The July 1, 2008 oat yield is forecast at 63 bushels per acre, 7 bushels per acre above the final yield of 2007. If realized, the resulting oat production of 5.04 million bushels will be up 13 percent from last year. Winter wheat acres to be harvested for grain are expected to total 185,000, up 30,000 acres from last year. The July 1, 2008 winter wheat yield is forecast at 58.0 bushels per acre, which is unchanged from both the June 1 projected yield and last year's final yield. The resulting winter wheat production of 10,730 million bushels will be up 19 percent from last year's production of 8.99 million bushels. Barley acreage for grain at 55,000 is up 13,000 acres from 2007. Barley yield is expected to be 74.0 bushels per acre this year for an expected production of 4.07 million bushels. This production is up 33 percent from last year's production of 3.07 million bushels.

Fall potatoes were planted on 11,000 acres this year, up 5 percent from last year. Harvest is expected from 10,500 acres, also up 5 percent from a year ago.

Peach production in Pennsylvania is expected to be 23,000 tons. This is up 19 percent from 2007.

At the United States level, oat production is forecast at 92.9 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. The expected yield for oats, forecast at 64.4 bushels per acre, is up 3.5 bushels from 2007. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres for grain, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels. This is up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2008, but up 12 percent from last year. Barley production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, down less than 1 bushel from last year. Expected area for harvest for grain, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007.

For the United States, fall potatoes were planted on 929,100 acres this year, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 916,200 acres, also down 8 percent from 2007 and 7 percent below 2006. This decrease in planted acreage can partly be attributed to higher prices from competing crops, which influenced growers to plant crops other than potatoes.

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